



## Press Release

**Press Release Announcement -- June 24, 2003 -- For Immediate Use**  
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### Pennsylvania Red Meat Production Down 2.6 Percent in May

**HARRISBURG** --- Commercial red meat production, dressed weight basis, in Pennsylvania during May 2003 totaled 102.5 million pounds, down 2.6 percent from May 2002, according to the Pennsylvania Agricultural Statistics Service (PASS).

Beef production, at 108.2 million pounds live weight, was down 5.5 percent from May 2002. Total head slaughtered was 86,000, down 4.0 percent; and live weight averaged 1,258 pounds, an decrease of 20 pounds compared to one year ago.

Veal production was 5.26 million pounds live weight, virtually unchanged from a year ago. Calf slaughter of 14,000 head was up slightly more than 1 percent from May 2002, and average live weight decreased 5 pounds to 377 pounds.

Pork production was 54.5 million pounds live weight, up 4 percent from last year. Total head slaughtered was 219,300 up 1 percent from 2002. Average live weight was 248 pounds, up 7 pounds compared to May last year.

Lamb and mutton production was 682,000 pounds live weight, up 14.4 percent. The number slaughtered was 6,500, up 7 percent. Average live weight was 105 pounds, up 7 pounds from last year.

**Nationally**, commercial red meat production, dressed weight basis, in May 2003 totaled 3.94 billion pounds. Beef production, dressed weight basis, at 2.36 billion pounds, was 1 percent above the previous year and a new record high for May. Cattle slaughter totaled 3.25 million head, up 3 percent from a year earlier. Veal production, at 15.8 million pounds, was 2 percent above May a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 76,300 head, down 2 percent from May 2002.

Pork production totaled 1.55 billion pounds, down 6 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 7.81 million head, 6 percent below May 2002.

Lamb and mutton production, at 15.2 million pounds, was down 22 percent from May 2002. Sheep and lamb slaughter totaled 221,900 head, down 22 percent from a year earlier.

January-May red meat production was 19.07 billion pounds, 1 percent below the previous year. Accumulated beef production was down 1 percent from last year, veal production was up 5 percent, pork production was virtually unchanged from a year ago, and lamb and mutton production was down 13 percent.